

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

JULY, 2012

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at the Garden Center Building.

Present were; Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali, Vice President; Mr. Terry Prater, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary. There were also several attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 P.M.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the June 13, 2012 regular meeting. A motion was made by A. Black to approve them as written. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

President Black opened the floor to anyone who may have to leave the meeting early.

Mr. Doyle Walker of the S.E. Neighborhood Association asked to address the Board. Mr. Walker told the Board that he had spoken to the Recreation Board on June 20th regarding both Reiter Park and Mini Park 25 and the need for updated play equipment. He said he had already talked to the Park Director about the need of picnic tables at the two locations and that the Director had provided the tables. He explained they would like to get a new sitting bench, to replace the teeter totter one there now, and a grill at Mini Park 25 and would like to get a grill for the shelter at Reiter Park. Mr. Walker stated he understood about the past vandalism at the two locations and wanted the Board to know that the Association had formed a neighborhood watch to keep an eye on things. Mr. Black asked what a teeter totter bench was and the Director explained that in the past teeter totters had been removed and instead of removing the support posts they were turned into benches. Mr. Black stated he did not think there had ever been a grill placed in a mini park before and was not sure about it. Mr. Walker stated the neighborhood was changing with a lot of young families and felt it would be used. He also stated they were planning on a neighborhood get together at Reiter Park in August. The Director stated if they had a large grill in stock they might be able to get one installed at Reiter before August if they can work it around HOF activities. A grill at Mini Park 25 may take longer along with a bench as he would like to check with the Recreation Department to make sure any new installs would not interfere with any new play structures. The Board had no objections to the requests and the Director will work on trying to get them done.

Mr. Ron Duff asked about the use of Maryland Park and the bathrooms there for a neighborhood activity in September. The Director explained the bathrooms had not been in working order for the last three years as someone had stolen all of the copper plumbing from the building and there was no one asking for their use. He would look into getting them working for the activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues – The Director reported that he had nothing new to report at this time. The issue remained tabled.
2. Recycle/Ad Proposal – The Director noted Mr. Gordon was not at the meeting and stated he had nothing new. The issue remained tabled.
3. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA – Again Mr. Gordon was not at the meeting and the Director had nothing new. Councilperson Griffin was asked if anything had been brought to council and he stated there had not. The issue remained tabled.
4. Staffing and Personnel Issues – The Director reported that there had been no audit report as yet. Mr. Black stated that it was clear this was dragging on forever. He again stated the Board had the authority to act to solve the problem and the authority to terminate a fiduciary employee at any time. He asked the fellow members when was the Board ready to move forward? He said he was ready to make the same motion he had been making and asked the other members what their thoughts were at this point? Both Mr. Zutali and Mr. Prater stated they would still wait for the audit report before taking any action. Mr Black said in that case he would not put forth a motion on the matter. The members all agreed that if the report came back prior to the next regular meeting they would hold a special meeting to discuss the issue at that time.
5. Schneider Fountain Damage – Mr. Black stated he had received a call from Mr. Don Schneider telling him that he had made arrangements to have the fountain replaced. Mr. Black also noted that Mr. Schneider had sent a letter to the editor in support of the continued existence of the Park Commission. The Director was instructed to get a cost for placing a fence around the fountain area and to see about some cameras and signs that the area was under watch. He was also instructed to do a draft of a thank you letter for Mr. Black's signature.
6. Adopt-A-Park Proposal – The Director provided the members a copy of the new draft from the law department. No one had any issues with the new draft. The Director stated what was needed now was a meeting with the union regarding just what could be done by these groups. Mr. Gravila, the Park System Union Steward, stated the proposal had been discussed at recent negotiations and that a meeting was to be set up to handle the issue. The Director would wait to hear about the meeting date. The issue was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Living In Full Expectation, Inc requesting the use of Nimisilla Park on Friday August 17, 2012 to hold a “City Wide Back to School” event. A motion to approve the request with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. High Mill Church requesting to hold a clean up and a “Wellness Day” at Harmont Park on August 25, 2012. A motion to approve this request was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. CAP III Community Fund and Councilperson Tom West requesting the use of Nimisilla Park on August 25 and 26, 2012 to hold the "It's A Family Affair Weekend, Picnic n Park" event. The Director noted for the Board that the shelter was already rented for a private group on Saturday. After some discussion a motion was made by A. Black to approve the event if the shelter reservation was alright with the event being there with an insurance requirement. The Director was also to offer a free use at another park if the reservation was interested but the cost to be added to the event if they did so. If the reservation had a problem with the event then the request would be denied. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

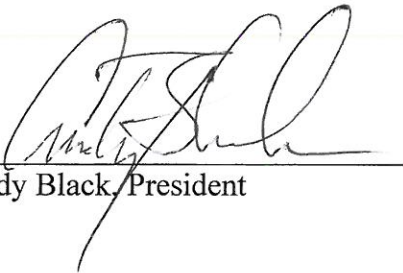
OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The Director informed the Board that Ms. Robin Kratzer of the Quonset Hut had contacted him regarding the donation of a new kiosk for the Disc Golf course at Arboretum Park. She would donate the kiosk and have it installed. They would also supply free scorecards and pencils. She only asked that they be allowed to embed their logo to let the players know they support the sport. A motion to accept the donation was made by A. Black. A second was provided by W. Zutali and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.
2. The Director told the Board that another person had complained about an ant problem at the Garaux building and was asking for one half of their rental costs to be refunded. He also told them that the crew was working on getting rid of ants and if that did not work he would call in a professional service. The Board instructed the Director to handle the complaint the same as the last one. Offer a free shelter rental or \$40 off their next Garaux rental.
3. Mr. Black brought up the Mayor's recent proposal to disband the Park Commission. He said there had not been an ordinance sent to council as yet but it was his understanding that the Law Department seemed to think council could take such an action. Although they still had some research to do with regard to the issue. He asked the members if they wanted to take some action before such an ordinance showed up at council? Mr. Black stated he felt that such an action would be a disservice to the public. He questioned how priorities would be set for the parks in the future? He felt that there would be a lack of oversight of the parks. He just did not understand how the parks would be managed without the Commission. He also stated he has a fundamental issue with council being able to disband the Park Board or any board that was created by a vote of the people. He felt if the people wanted to get rid of a board OK but not this way. Mr. Prater stated he shared the same thoughts. He recommended that the board talk to council as he did not think the Mayor could be influenced. Mr. Zutali stated he thought the Board should talk to all the powers that be and that included the Mayor but he did agree that it should be the people that decided this issue. Ms. Sarver, of the O.U.R. Neighborhood Association presented the Board with two letters, one from her and one from Mr. Ken Ash, in support of keeping the Park Commission. She stated she had not had any feedback from the council members as yet but she had from the public and the people she talked to were against the idea also. She said the message needs to get out there that this idea should not go forward. Mr. Leon Cote told the Board that the Park staff does the most for the city with the least money than anyone. He said the street department already had over 5,000 lots they can not keep mowed now. Mr. Pat Burns stated he thinks it would help if Mr. Black or all the members of the Board went and did public speaks during a council meeting.

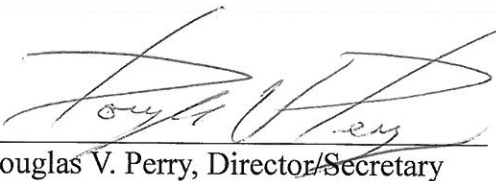
Mr. Prater said he thought public speaks was a good idea as it would be on the record but that the Board should also go talk to the Parks and Recreation Committee first. Mr. Black stated he would contact Councilperson Griffin about a meeting with that committee.

4. Mr. Zutali asked what could be provided in the way of support for a Crenshaw Park clean up he was planning for July 28th. The Director stated he would provide what he could and that usually the things the Recreation District took care of they provided things for but if they could not he would do so. Mr Pat Burns suggested that donations could be obtained if people were asked for both food and paint. Mr. Zutali said that was a good idea and would look into it.
5. Mr. Zutali asked the Director how the new Do Not Feed signs were coming. The Director told him he had been informed that they were about half done so he should have them soon.
6. The Director informed the Board that due to the drought conditions and hot temperatures there had been a large fish kill at the Stadium Park Pond. An estimated 350 fish had died and he had the crew already clean them up.

Being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.



Andy Black, President



Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary